



After careful scrutiny of the latest Government publication

‘COVID-19 Guidance for managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms 26th June 2020’

The Frank Montgomery Playing Field committee have decided not to open our playing field at this current time.

The current Government guidelines when applied to our playing field make it impracticable to reopen.

We cannot carry out the extensive and regular cleaning of the Play Equipment, entry gates, benches, picnic tables and refuse bins which is recommended, as we do not have the appropriate staff and PPE and it will put ourselves and others at risk.

We would be expected to promote cleaning of play equipment by visitors, but this would be impossible to monitor. Hand sanitisers at entry and exit points would possibly be stolen.

We are unable to limit visitor numbers, implement a booking system, request only 1 adult accompanies their child /children, set a time limit for visits, reduce swing seats, limit number of users able to use a particular piece of equipment etc unless we employ persons to enforce this.

The amount of signage required would be counterproductive and overwhelm visitors with information – much of which has been in the public domain for weeks.

We are urged to provide more waste facilities and have more frequent rubbish collections, at a time when Canterbury City Council Waste services are already over stretched. If we were to collect the rubbish ourselves, visits to household waste recycling centres must be booked online.

The Government recognises that adherence to social distancing between individuals and households can be particularly difficult in a playground setting, let alone this being monitored and enforced.

One would hope and expect visitors to act in a responsible manor, but recent well publicised behaviour in parks and on beaches tells us otherwise. We are still getting breaches to our locked playing field on a regular basis, which the playing field committee are finding difficult to act upon, in response to reports from neighbours. All breaches and any evidence is being passed to our local Police.

Taking advice from our insurance company, as it should be noted that the Parish Council very likely could be held responsible / liable if someone contracted COVID from our playing field, and carrying out a risk assessment we have concluded that we are not reasonably able to provide a safe environment for staff, volunteers and service users.

We strongly suggest that the playing field remains closed and the situation be reviewed every 2 weeks, or upon publication of new or further guidance from the government.

Kind regards

Mrs Linda Lodge (Chairman) and Cllr Caroline Rees (Vice-chairman)